

Business Notices.

IMPORTANT FACTS.

Constant writing for six months is done cheaper with Gold Pens than with Steel Pens; therefore, it is economy to use Gold Pens.

The Gold Pen remains unchanged by years of continued use, while the Steel Pen is ever changing by corrosion and wear; therefore, perfect uniformity of writing is obtained only by the use of the Gold Pen.

The Gold Pen is always ready and reliable, while the Steel Pen must be often condemned and a new one selected; therefore there is great saving of time in the use of the Gold Pen.

Gold is capable of receiving any degree of elasticity, so that the Gold Pen is exactly adapted to the hand of the writer; therefore, the nerves of the hand and arm are not injured, as is known to be the case by the use of Steel Pens.

See "The Pen is mightier than the Sword," in another column.

1861. GENIN'S HAT AND FUR STORE. 1862. Holiday Dress Hats for Young Men, Styles entirely new and novel.

Holiday styles of Hats and Caps, For Boys and Girls.

Ladies' and Children's Furs of every description. Sleigh Robes, Fur Gloves, Fur Caps.

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Skating Caps. Fur Trimmings for Cloaks and Bonnets.

Any of the above articles are very desirable and suitable for Holiday Presents.

GENIN'S Hat and Fur Store, No. 513 Broadway.

WINTER CLOTHING.—The cheapest, the best assortment, newest stock, best styles, &c., &c.

F. B. BARNES, Nos. 70 and 72 Bovey.

BEAUTY HATH CHARMS.—HUNT'S BLOOM OF ROSES, a delicate color for the cheeks or lips, warranted to wash off or injure the skin.

Hunt's Cream, Toilet Powder for the complexion, used by the Court Beauties of London and Paris. HUNT'S New Store, No. 2 Astor-place.

JEFFERS, No. 573 Broadway. Is the only place in New-York where LADIES' BALCONY ROSES can be had for \$2.50 a pair, that will give perfect satisfaction.

CLARET-SOLE BALCONY, \$4 and upward.

AT WILLIAM TAYLOR'S SALOON, No. 335 Broadway.

Boned Turkey, Cakes, Jellies, Charlotte Russe, Brandy Fruits, Ornamental Pyramids.

Also, an excellent variety of Fancy Articles for Christmas Trees, appropriate to the times.

Confectionery, Bon Bon Boxes, Cornucopias, &c. Masson's celebrated Paris Chocolate.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—All agree that President Lincoln's Message is the most sensible document which has emanated from the White House in a long time.

It is the only one that is not a mere repetition of what has been said before. It is the only one that is not a mere repetition of what has been said before.

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traveled over much ground, and worked zealously. The Catline case is first taken up, and the verdict is that the vessel was chartered to the Government at an exorbitant price, Capt. Comstock being the agent of both parties. The subject of the purchase of vessels is next considered, and in this matter the Committee say that the plain rules governing ordinary business transactions have been disregarded, to the great harm of the public service. This topic is treated at great length, and with much severity. It appears that the agent received for his services, during five months, \$95,000, which came really from the Government, though by a transparent pretext it was supposed to be paid in the form of a commission by those who sold the ships. In the opinion of the Committee the arrangement by which this large amount of money was paid for the not very onerous services was discreditable to the parties between whom it was made. The purchase of arms also occupied the attention of the Committee for some time. They condemn the practice of buying arms in the manner in which it has been done. The matter of Fremont's expenditures in Missouri is considered at length.

The Committee charge that Marshal Lamont of this District, under the title of "General Lamont," went to St. Louis and procured the transportation of the 32d Illinois Regiment from St. Louis to Williamsport to join "Gen. Lamont's brigade," at a cost of \$30,000, to answer no good purpose, and further that the removal was not authorized by the War Department. These are but a few of the points touched upon by the report. The judgment of the Committee is always sharply and clearly expressed, and their decision on some matters will probably be more interesting to the public than pleasing to the parties personally concerned.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

The Connecticut, from Galveston, Ship Island, Key West, Savannah, and Fortress Monroe, reached this port on Tuesday morning. She had on board as prisoners the crew of the pirate Royal Yacht, captured off Galveston; also, the crews of two Rebel steamboats taken off Mobile. She had as passengers thirteen of Wilson's Zouaves and several regulars from Fort Pickens. Nothing new had taken place at the latter fort since the bombardment. Touching at Tybee Island and Port Royal, the Connecticut gathered some important news, but it is not thought best to give the particulars of it. It may, however, be said, that it is probable both Savannah and Charleston will soon be in the possession of our troops.

By way of Fortress Monroe we had yesterday a report to the effect that Fort Pulaski had been abandoned by the rebels and taken possession of by our troops. Later intelligence, however, threw serious doubt upon the report, and it was not believed.

An expedition has sailed from Port Royal, as we learn by the Connecticut, for Fernandina; the force is not a large one, but the fortifications at the threatened place are small, and it is believed that the whole would fall into our hands after a very brief fight.

A private letter from Beaufort tells us that the stone fleet has probably before this been sunk at the mouth of Charleston harbor, in such a way as to destroy it utterly.

Among a variety of news from rebel sources, none of which can be relied on for accuracy, is an item stating that the Union troops, 5,000 strong, on Friday last, attacked Col. Johnson's force at Valley Mountain, and were repulsed with great loss. Ben McCulloch is said to be at Richmond.

A dispatch from Cincinnati informs us that a force of infantry and gunboats have just been sent from Columbus to New-Orleans, which city has been attacked, and was threatened with demolition by our forces. It cannot be true that our troops have attacked New-Orleans; if there is any truth in this intelligence, it probably refers to some outbreak of Unionists in New-Orleans, who are quite strong, and liable at any moment to seize the city.

The Union troops in Kentucky, now reinforced by at least 10,000 men from Indiana, are within a short distance of Bowling Green. As soon as Gen. Buell can bring his regiments and put them in working order he is to push on to Nashville.

All the troops at Tipton, Mo., were on the 16th ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice. At the same time Gen. Pope, at the head of all the troops in winter quarters at Ottoville, marched toward Warrensburg, it is believed for the purpose of cutting off Gen. Price. Important news is looked for from Missouri.

The very latest news from the Sumter is from St. Thomas, under date of Dec. 1. The intelligence is as follows:

"Two days ago (Nov. 29), the Rebel steamer 'Sumter' was seen by two British steamers, 'about 30 miles from this point, steering 'N. E.'"

SPANISH DESIGNS ON MEXICO.

Whatever may be the motives which have impelled the French and English Governments to engage in the expedition against Mexico, it is very evident from the tone of the Spanish press, both at home and in Cuba, that the last of conquest and dominion which once burnt so fiercely in the heart of Spain has been neither extinguished nor greatly depressed by the long degradation and humiliation of the kingdom consequent on the misgovernment of the last two centuries. The recent rapid advances of Spain in power and resources have filled her people with confidence in their ability to take once more a leading and dominating position among the nations. The contrast between the Spain of fifty years ago—weak, distracted, impoverished, and disarmed, without an army or a navy, and with only eight millions of population—and the Spain of to-day, with a strong Government, an important and growing commerce, sixteen millions of people, a powerful fleet, and a disciplined army twice as numerous as that with which she avowed the world in the days of Charles V. and Philip II., is certainly very striking and significant, and well calculated to inflame the ancient Spanish pride and

arrogance. In this country, even among statesmen who ought to know better, the traditional notion still prevails that Spain is a worn-out and imbecile nation, destitute alike of energy and of military and naval resources. But in Europe it is well understood that Spain has substantially resumed her ancient position among the Great Powers, and that her formal recognition as such is only delayed by complications and jealousies arising from an unwillingness on the part of Protestant England and Prussia to admit another Catholic and Latin nation into the first rank.

In the financial and political embarrassments of Mexico, Spain evidently sees the means by which, skillfully managed and controlled, her authority over that country can be eventually restored. To that end she has of late years actively fomented the disturbances of Mexico by encouraging and aiding Miramon and the Church faction, to whose intrigues and turbulence the distracted condition of the country is chiefly owing. By an alliance with that faction, and through the great wealth and powerful influence of its leaders, the clergy, the Spanish Government probably hope to gain a foothold in Mexico, which in time may lead to the complete subjugation of the country to Spanish influence, directly or indirectly. The French and English Governments have doubtless taken part in the present intervention as much from jealousy of Spain and a prudent desire to hold a controlling check over the expedition as from any other motive. The Mexicans, on their part, seem to be preparing for fierce and stubborn resistance to any Spanish attempt at internal conquest, leaving the seaports to their fate. From the well-known hatred of the Mexican people generally toward the Spaniards, it may safely be predicted that any attempt on the part of Spain, to subjugate them, even with the aid of the Church party, will lead to a bloody and protracted war, the issue of which, notwithstanding the augmented power and resources of Spain, cannot but be very doubtful.

In the present state of our own affairs, it is very unlikely that the United States will take any immediate share in the contest. But, though we may look with indifference on the attempt of a European power to collect its debts in Mexico, or to wage ordinary war for the redress of grievances, we cannot consistently, with our avowed principles of international policy, sit idly quiet and permit a sister republic to be blotted from the list of nations and made a mere appendage to a European Monarchy. In the rapid progress of events it may be necessary for the Government to take a decided and energetic stand in this matter; and in view of these complications, as well as of the dangers arising from the Mason and Slidell affair, Congress should without delay provide for an adequate increase of the Navy. A few hundred heavily-armed gun-boats, in addition to those we have already afloat, would not only materially aid our land forces in suppressing the rebellion, but would powerfully tend to preserve the peace with European nations.

GEN. MCCLELLAN.

A clever attack on the military capacity and strategy of Gen. McClellan, from the pen of Charles Ellet, Civil Engineer, has recently been circulated in pamphlet and been copied, wholly or in part, in several journals. And this is but one of many recent attempts to depreciate the abilities and lower the prestige of the General-in-Chief of our armies.

We object to all these strictures, as we did to those so freely showered upon Gen. Fremont during his brief season of command in Missouri. In so doing, we do not at all defer to the assumption that civilians cannot wisely sit in judgment on the acts of military men.

A clear-headed, intelligent man, well acquainted with history and blessed with common sense, may perceive and comment on the mistakes of generals in the field; but he can only do so with any safety when familiar with all the facts. Now, none of us know, or can know, some facts essential to a safe judgment on the alleged inactivity of Gen. McClellan. Who knows how many men he has within fifty miles of Washington? Who knows to what extent he could increase their number within a week, if he desired? Who knows how completely his soldiers are armed with the most effective weapons? We know that a good part of our soldiers at Ball's Bluff had none other than old smooth-bore muskets, and were shot down by the Minié rifles of the rebels who kept carefully out of range of our soldiers' guns. We know that there were, not many weeks since, whole regiments of cavalry on the Potomac without sabers; we trust they have since been supplied, but we do not know it. We do not know that Gen. McClellan has all the field-artillery he needs, nor that he has a full supply of fit ammunition for his guns. Those who decided off-hand that Fremont ought to have reinforced Lyon and relieved Mulligan may know that Gen. McClellan ought to have advanced a month ago; we do not.

Of all absurd criticisms, that so freely bestowed on the frequent reviews, parades, sham fights, on the Potomac, seems to us most preposterous. These are no substitutes for actual hostilities, but preparations for it. Had the two months prior to Bull Run been devoted to Gen. McClellan's predecessors to such parades, the disgraced panic and flight of that memorable day could never have occurred. Gen. McClellan may or may not be a great, but he surely is a diligent commander. Until ready to advance, he could hardly be better employed than in drilling his men in all the necessary maneuvers not only of the regiment and brigade, but of the division, the army corps, and the battle-field.

We wish those who are so free in their criticisms on Gen. McClellan's strategy would tell us in what direction to look for his successor in case he should be disabled or should, from whatever cause, relinquish his command. If we had a Radetsky or McMahon to put in his place, we might regard with more patience the efforts to supplant him. But, since the confidence of his soldiers and countrymen is a very important portion of any commander's strength and efficiency, we trust everything calculated to weaken Gen. McClellan in the public estimation will be forborne.

As to the propriety of an immediate advance by the Army of the Potomac, there are of course conflicting opinions. Our own is of no importance; but it certainly looks to us as though a vigilant, alert defensive on that point, combined with the utmost possible efficiency in the department of Kentucky and in our expeditions down the coast, were, for the present, our true policy. There is a reasonable hope that the rebels may be starved, frozen, and alarmed by their advisers from the coast into a desperate offensive, or else constrained to an equally desperate retreat. This, however, is our guess merely; we know too little of the strength or efficiency of either main army to determine what ought to be done. If, however, Gen. McClellan can hold 150,000 rebels at Manassas, while Kentucky and East Tennessee are swept clean of them and the Southern coasts overhauled by Dupont, Sherman, Burnside and Butler, and the negroes show their devotion to Jefferson as at Charleston, he will be contributing powerfully though not conspicuously to a speedy overthrow of the rebellion. Let him have a fair opportunity while we look carefully on.

GOV. SEWARD'S DIPLOMACY.

The correspondence since last January of the State Department with our Embassadors and with foreign Governments has been laid on the desks of the Members of Congress in a compact volume which does credit to the Public Printer. We believe that its contents will generally be regarded as reflecting honor likewise on the Government from which they have mainly proceeded, and whose attitude and bearing toward other nations are therein faithfully reflected. Certainly, we are confident that the readers of leading British journals, especially *The London Times* and *The Saturday Review*, who have from day to day been treated to wholesale inculcations of Mr. Seward's demagogic pandering to popular passions, his bullying, hectoring, menacing, insulting treatment of European Powers, &c., &c., would be surprised if the contents of this volume could be fairly laid before them. In vain would they turn page after page in eager quest of the passages wherein the criminations of their favorite journals were based; they do not appear because they do not exist. Whatever may have been Gov. Seward's personal demeanor toward the diplomatists accredited to Washington—and it is quite probable that to those known as favorable to a triumph of the Secessionists he has been no more cordial than the etiquette of his position required—we find no trace of arrogant assumption or haughty exaction in this volume. The tone of the Secretary of State is assured and firm, but not at all defiant; he does not concede, whether in word or deed, that the Union is divided or the seceded States permanently alienated; he regards Secession and the civil war as it inaugurated merely as passion-gusts sweeping over our country and temporarily disordering much that appears on its surface; but he never doubts that the tornado will soon have spent its force, and that the country, reunited, will be stronger and more prosperous than ever before. Foreign Governments and their agents have a perfect right to smile at this as delusion; but they have no right to resent it as arrogance or insult. And it is only on *The London Times's* cool assumption that we have no right to assassinate the Slaveholders' Rebellion to one which should break out in the British Isles and threaten their dismemberment, that the most determined European cavalier can find anything in Gov. Seward's dispatches to dispute, much less to resent.

Looking at the whole subject from an American standpoint, however, we think our Government has made one fundamental if not vital mistake, in declining on its own part and virtually interdicting to its agents any discussion with foreigners of our intestine troubles. We are familiar with the arguments by which this policy of reticence is justified, but they do not convince us. In an age when Opinion is so mighty a force, restoring long shattered nations and pulling down venerable dynasties, we cannot overbear the conviction that every fair opportunity should be improved to convince the civilized world that the Unionists are eminently right and the Secessionists atrociously wrong on every point with regard to which they are at variance. When the air of Europe is murky with the impudent falsehoods of Yancey & Co., importing that they have rebelled on an issue affecting mainly our Economic or Tariff policy, and having little or no relation to Slavery, it seems hard that Mr. Adams should, in addressing (in effect) the British nation, be constrained to ignore the one topic on which he was naturally best qualified to speak, and they most anxious to hear. So when the Emperor of Russia directed his Minister of Foreign Affairs to address our Government on his behalf in terms of cordial and evidently earnest sympathy with our trials and solicitude for our happy deliverance therefrom, it seems to us a misfortune that Gov. Seward should have felt constrained to limit his response to a coldly polite acknowledgment of the Emperor's kind offices and an assurance that they are not unappreciated. Never before had a statesman so fair an opportunity to indite a really great paper—one which every statesman and publicist in Christendom must necessarily and carefully read—one which, without seeming to argue the justice of our position, might yet, in merely stating it, make an impression on the general ear which treason could never disturb nor the clamorous iteration of misleading sophisms wear away.

We do not here take special account of the mistake of our Government in failing to recognize—we mean formally and publicly—that this is essentially a struggle between Liberty and Slavery. If it be wrong to discuss with foreign Powers the grounds of this rebellion at all, it is of course wrong to discuss any particular aspect of them. But, feeling sure that ours is a cause which challenges scrutiny and must profit by the fullest publicity, we cannot but regret the Secretary's settled resistance to any discussion with European statesmen of the right and wrong of our Secession controversy.

Yet, after making every proper abatement, we feel that the dispatches of Gov. Seward are

eminently conciliatory as well as firm, and that their publication must disabuse the general mind of Christendom of many false and injurious impressions. The leading British newspapers are so determinedly, inveterately unjust to us that we trust special efforts will be made to secure for these documents a European circulation.

BIG BUGS SOUTH.

We have read the Inaugural Speech of Pettus, the Governor of the State of Mississippi, and have found it a sweetly tumescent production. For instance: "When defeat brings 'death to the best and bravest of our land, and more than death to those who merely 'survive, reckless must be the man who assumes to play any part in this desperate 'game without more than ordinary solicitude.' This is put, it will be noticed, in the best Doctor-Samuel-Johnsonian style. What is put? the reader may ask. Really, we don't know. All we know is that whatever is put is very well put indeed. But this is better still: 'If the ship is lost, the captain goes with it. 'If our cause is lost, all who hold big places 'in the Southern States must perish first in 'its fall.'"

—Pettus evidently felt a crick in the neck when he emitted this sentence. His is one of the "big places," and his may be one of the first halts. The "big places" will become "tight places" when "our cause" is "lost." Pettus understands what his peril is with reasonable clearness. He is also kind enough to observe that not only will those "in high 'places" be hung, but that "one common 'destiny awaits us all." Still, he seems to think that being a big placeman he will be turned off in the very first batch. So far from saving him, his "big place" will seal his doom. Well, if anybody is to be hung, why not Pettus?

Two things we may reasonably conjecture. It is evident in the first place, that Gov. Pettus feels that he deserves a halter. You see, reader, that he takes it for granted, in the very beginning, that if caught, he will be judicially strangled. You notice, too, that of this he, by no means, complains. He no more thinks of making other than a hempen exit, than ordinary men—not "big" men—think of expiring in their shoes and outside their sheets. He knows that if he conquers, he comes in for the cakes; if he is conquered, for the aforesaid cravat. Pettus is a philosopher, Pettus is, and when the hour of his strangulation has struck, Pettus will go out in a Roman way, and without a murmur.

It may be noticed, in the second place, that Pettus is far from jolly, though he does get up for the nonce a little damp enthusiasm. His speech has a moody sorrow, as of the tomb. It is astonishing to observe how much he has to say about death in various shapes, and particularly about "the pale caravan for the tomb," which, together with "the red rain of battle," and "the dark and bloody ground," gives a funeral tone to the Pettus Inaugural, as if it were the Pettus Valedictory. What with the chance of death in the field, and of death on the scaffold, and other varieties of death alluded to by the Governor, we fancy that in early life he was bound 'prentice to an undertaker, and cannot get the old coffin out of his cranium. But, then, ambition always has been and will be costly. If you must have one of "the 'big places," you must also pay for it. Look at Caesar! Dead he is in the Capitol. Look at Pettus! Dead he is not thus far, but dead he expects to be, and soon. "One common 'destiny," says Pettus, "awaits us all." We "big" fellows will go first, but you little ones will follow surely. Indeed, we are not sure that, by a sort of intellectual projection, Pettus does not consider himself as bad as dead already, for there is an "as I am now, so you 'must be" tone in this Inaugural, which is as un-inaugural as possible. Who would be a "Big 'un?"

But it seems to us, finally, that Gov. Pettus does not know how to die with discretion. Why, in letting out his own soul, did he also liberate from the bag such an extraordinarily large cat? Is the "Confederacy" a Republic or an Aristocracy? What are these "big 'places" which the favored few hold? What is the qualification of a Mississippi aristocrat? Color? Cash? Birth? How "big" must a man be to hold "a big place?" Can a miscreant so utterly impoverished as not to own one square-inch of negro acre to "a big 'place" and an early death? Must a man be a big man to fill "a big place?" What is the minimum of abdomen which, according to the Mississippi Constitution, is consistent with a big place? Must the fit be a tight or a loose one? Are men elected to big places by admeasurement of a tailor's tape? If this be so, we hereby express our commiseration for all lean, hungry, and niggerless white men within the Pettus bailiwick—poor creatures, who find it hard work to live, and who are not allowed even the liberty of dying, until the big-place people are cosily confined.

We don't know—not having lived under the mild sway of Pettus, we cannot be sure—but we think, if we resided in Mississippi, and were a mere poor white man, with nothing but our soul and body to call our own, that when Pettus called to us from his big place to go forth to the gory field to die in defense of Pettus's great gang of "niggers," we should think it rather hard if, by the force of circumstances, and tar and feathers, we were driven to obey; though it would be some consolation to know that our Oppressor was to all intents, and by his own admission, himself a Dead Man.

Large Fire at Buffalo.
BUFFALO, N. Y., Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1861.
The warehouses formerly occupied by the Michigan Central Railroad Company, together with the propeller Dunkirk, lying at the dock, were